

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BIG HORN COUNTY  
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November 11, 2019

Rynalea Whiteman Pena, President  
Northern Cheyenne Nation  
P.O. Box 128  
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

RE: Alternative Election Office for the Primary Election to be held on  
June 2, 2020 and the General Election to be held on November 3,  
2020

Dear President Pena:

On November 7, 2019, Big Horn County received your undated letter regarding the above referenced matter and will accept that as Notice under Election Directive #01-2015, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience.

The letter requests that the alternative election office be open for the Primary Election from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. from May 5, 2020, through June 1, 2020, and from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on June 3, 2020. It should be noted that the primary election is on June 2, 2020 so it will be assumed that your reference to June 3, 2020 was a typographical error.

As it regards the General Election the letter asks that the alternative election office be open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. from October 6, 2020, through November 2, 2020, and from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on November 3, 2018.

The letter then states that the Directive requires:

- 1) In person registration beginning 25 days before the primary and general election and continuing through 8:00 p.m. on election days;
- 2) In person absentee voting beginning 25 days before the primary and general election days, and continuing until noon the day before election days.
- 3) In person voting on election days.

Page 4 Section 7 sets forth the time period the alternative election office must be open. In the first paragraph the Directive states:

An election administrator providing services at a satellite election office must ensure that starting at least 30 days prior to the election absentee ballots are available at the satellite election office **during the days and hours the satellite election office is open for business agreed upon by the Tribal Government and approved by the County Commissioners.** Mont. Code Ann. § 13-13-205. [Emphasis Supplied]

Big Horn County cannot approve the schedule proposed in the letter. The Election Administrator's Office will only have 1.5 full time people and since the Election Administrator cannot staff 3 election offices (one at the Big Horn County Courthouse, one at Crow Agency and one at Busby) simultaneously; a five day a week, 9 hour a day schedule cannot be maintained at the Busby alternative election office.

Finally, it must be remembered that on Election Day all polling places, including the one at Busby will be open for in person voting, but not registration, during the hours provided by law on the election days.

So, Big Horn County will follow the one day a week schedule that was used in the past which results in the following dates that the alternative election office will be open at Busby:

**Primary Election**

May 5, 2020

May 12, 2020

May 19, 2020

May 26, 2020

**General Election**

October 6, 2020

October 13, 2020

October 20, 2020

October 27, 2020

The hours on each day will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

If nothing more is heard from by close of business, 5:00 p.m. January 31, 2020, it will be assumed that you agree with the one day a week schedule set forth above.

If there are any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call at the number above.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BIG HORN COUNTY, MONTANA

Sidney Fitzpatrick  
Chairman

George Real Bird III  
Member

Larry Vandersloot  
Member

cc Big Horn County Election Administrator

Enclosure of Election Directive #01-2015

Draft November 11, 2019